

Claim Amendments

1-6. **(Canceled)**

7. **(Currently Amended)** An isolated ferric reductase defective (FRD3) ~~FRD3~~ polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3, 6, and 9.

8-10. **(Canceled)**

11. **(Currently Amended)** A transgenic plant comprising an isolated FRD3 polypeptide, ~~or a portion thereof, having FRD3-mediated activity, wherein the FRD3~~ polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3, 6, and 9.

12-13. **(Canceled)**

14. **(Original)** The transgenic plant of claim 11, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of maize, wheat, rye, sorghum, cassava, beans, rice, beans, and peas.

15. **(Canceled)**

16. **(Original)** A method for modulating metal concentration in a biological sample containing the metal, comprising:

- (a) providing the transgenic plant of claim 11; and
 - (b) contacting the transgenic plant with the biological sample,
- such that the metal concentration in the biological sample is modulated.

17. **(Original)** A method for removing a pollutant from soil, comprising contacting the transgenic plant of claim 11 with the soil such that the pollutant is removed from the soil.

18. **(Original)** The method of claim 17, wherein the pollutant is a metal.

19. **(Original)** The method of claim 18, wherein the metal is selected from the group consisting of As, Pb, Co, Cd, Hg, Zn, and Cu.

20-25. **(Canceled)**

26. **(Currently Amended)** A method for promoting plant growth, comprising introducing into a plant ~~the an~~ isolated FRD3 polypeptide of claim 7 ~~having FRD3-mediated activity.~~